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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01835 110830Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /033 W
---------- 069169 120543Z /15
R 101335Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 996
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1835

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINR, FRG, TU, SY
SUBJECT: DR. JOACHIM PECKERT: NEWLY APPOINTED FRG AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA

1. THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC DETAILS CONCERNING THE NEW FRG AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA ARE BASED ON REPEATED SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN HIM AND EMBASSY OFFICERS DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS.

2. PECKERT HAS SERVED AS FRG MINISTER IN ANKARA SINCE 1972. HE IS BRIGHT, OUTSPOKEN AND EFFECTIVE. HE IS ALSO RATHER POMPOUS, PROTOCOL-CONSCIOUS AND SELF-IMPORTANT. HE IS NOT VERY POPULAR WITH HIS EMBASSY COLLEAGUES.

3. AFTER WORLD WAR II PECKERT SPENT NINE YEARS AS A "GUEST OF THE SOVIET UNION". AS A RESULT PECKERT CONSIDERS HIMSELF AN EXPERT ON THE EVILS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE DANGERS OF SOVIET EXPANSIONISM. HE HAS REPORTEDLY PUBLISHED SOME PAPERS ON THE SUBJECT; HE CLAIMS HE HAS BEEN PREVENTED BY BONN FROM PUBLISHING A MAJOR BOOK. A POLITICAL CONSERVATIVE WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF WITH THE FRG OPPOSITION, PECKERT IS SCORNFUL OF OSTPOLITIK AND RELATED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE EAST.

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4. PECKERT SERVED IN MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO COMING TO ANKARA. HE HAS BEEN EXPECTING TO LEAVE ANKARA FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS, BUT UNTIL NOW HIS DESIRE TO LEAVE HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE HIM TO ACCEPT A POSITION HE CONSIDERS BENEATH HIS TALENTS AND ASPIRATIONS. HE CLAIMS NOT TO BE PLEASED WITH HIS ASSIGNMENT TO DAMASCUS. HE HAS ACCEPTED IT, HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO LEAVE ANKARA AND TO REMAIN OFF THE RETIRED

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LIST UNTIL A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN BONN, WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE HIS TALENTS.

5. PECKERT'S WIFE HEIDI IS EQUALLY OUTSPOKEN AND DISTRESSED THAT HERHUSBAND'S TALENTS HAVE NOT BEEN BETTER REWARDED. SHE IS ATTRACTIVE AND ATHLETIC, AND SHE HAS A VERY FORCEFUL PERSONALITY.

6. PECKERT IS AN AVID HORSEMAN. MRS. PECKERT IS AN EQUALLY AVID TENNIS PLAYER. BOTH PLAY BRIDGE REGULARLY. THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN, ONLY ONE OF WHOM (A 10-YEAR OLD SON) WILL ACCOMPANY THEM TO DAMASCUS. BOTH PECKERTS SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND ARE ACTIVE SOCIALLY.

7. PECKERT IS A SERIOUS DIPLOMAT AND PROBABLY WILL BE A WELL INFORMED AND CAPABLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRG IN DAMASCUS. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE FAIRLY DIRECT AND OPEN IN HIS DEALINGS WITH AMERICANS, ALTHOUGH HIS COMMENTS OFTEN TEND TO BE MORE GLIB THAN SUBSTANTIVE.
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# Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014
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